

Sheekookian 1999-0269

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at line 1 of page 2 to read as follows:

--There is also a need for an STM that can provide several consumer choice-driven services such as those typically provided by an operating telephone company. Examples of such services include Automatic Number Identification (ANI)-based services such as personal dialing plans, dialing restrictions to area codes, local numbers, speed dial codes and others. Traditionally, these services have been offered by local and some long distance telephone companies as switch-based services. If these customer-chosen selections were stored and made use of on a customer premise equipment such as an STB, the customer would enjoy a more portable solution. Additionally, providing these services on an STB would enable competing carriers such as cable operators to provide such services without the need to access the incumbent ~~carrier's~~ carrier's switching databases and translations. Accordingly, there is a need for such a method and apparatus.--